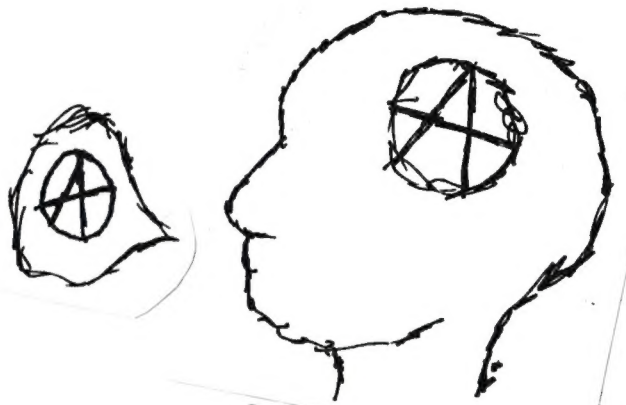
THANKS TO OUR COLLABORATORS

WE WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT Y'ALL

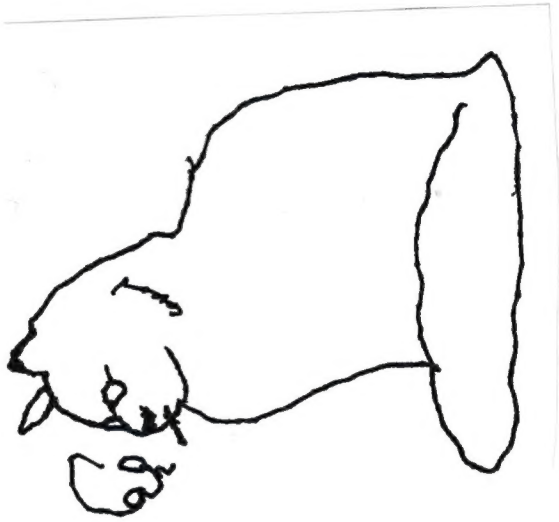
ANTI POWER TRIPS



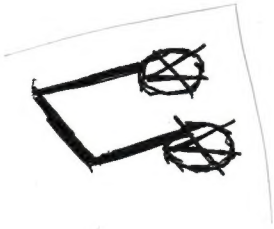
TALES OF RADICALIZATION

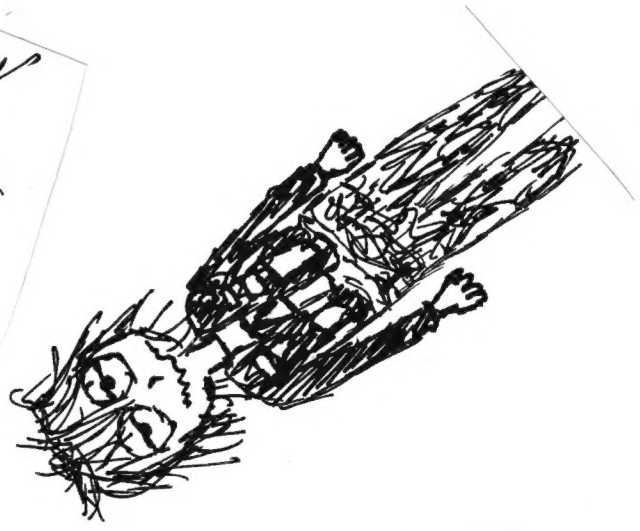
VOL 1

BOOM



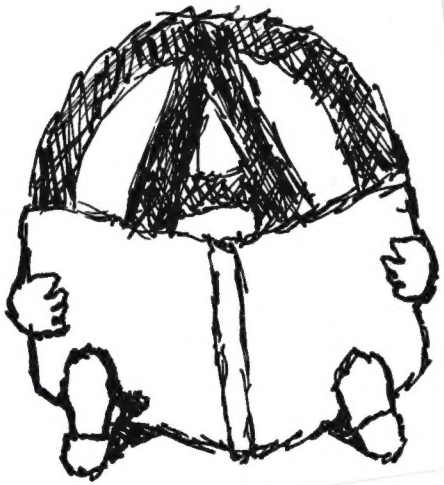
ANARCHY

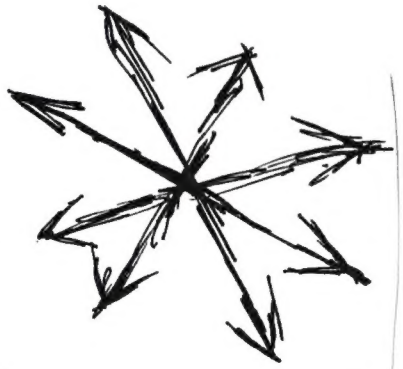




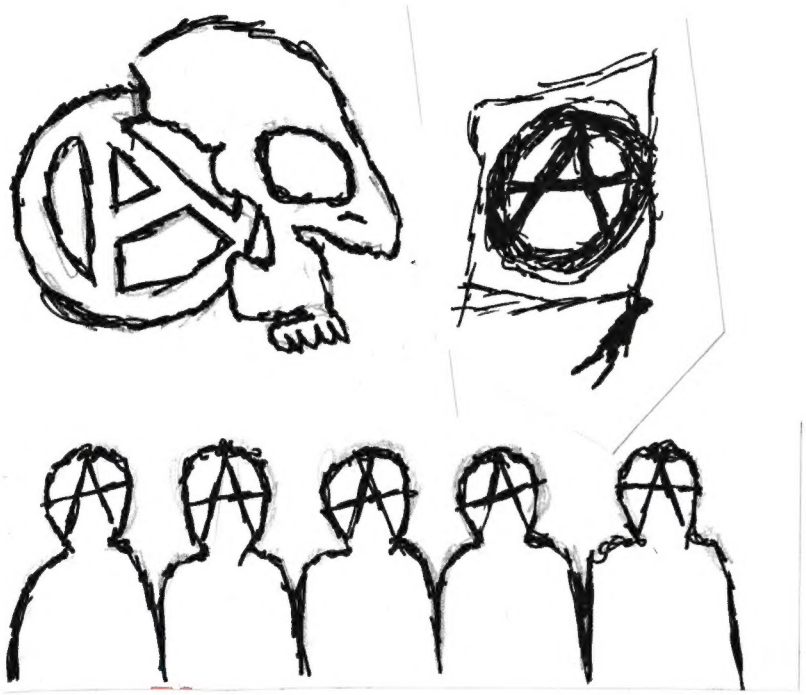
Around 17 I am in a town (not super far from where I grew up) that's a little bit more of a liberal town with an independent bookstore on the main street. I had heard some of acquaintances from shows mentioned the anarchist cookbook so I'm thinking how I'm gonna go in to this local bookstore & be some edgy kid, see if they have a copy. So I go in & I ask if the carry it & owner kind of chuckled & said "unfortunately not but I have some other literature that I think you'd be interested in". One of the books he recommended was Against Civilization by John Zerzan, which is a collection of works from anarchists & folks who are anti-civ. It was really cool to just read so many different perspectives from folks who envisioned a world that resonated with me, a world that has existed & will exist again. All these ideas that were presented in those pages were counter to how I grew up my whole life & it gave me a massive sense of what could be, ANYTHING. I finally found something that seemed to fill in the emptiness I always felt. And so I was really excited, really thrilled to have this book & read perspectives from folks & not feel so alone for the first time in my life. Since then I've just tried really hard to create those spaces where that world can grow.

my whole life I've always been in touch with the socialist values because my parent are leftists and used to be part of the fourth internationale, at 15 was when I first entered the online political discourse as an ambiguous socialist who supported everything remotely red, at 16 I started reading about anarcho-communism and became the "leftist unity" kind of ancom, I don't remember how long this lasted but at some point I dropped the left unity ideology and became some sort of anarcho-nihilist just for the aesthetic lol, at 18 I started reading more and being more educated on anarchism and marxism and since then I haven't changed much, I'm 19 this year, right now I'm sympathising a lot with communizer theory but I haven't had much time to read it, lastly my anarchist thought has been positively nourished by my buddhist worldview but that's another story.
I could say what radicalised me initially was my education and witnessing inequality in my own environment since I live in Ecuador





I went to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in second year of high-school in Ireland and met a young lad named Matthew. He showed me an Anarchist youtuber and then I became an Anarchist because an Anarchist society made intuitive, clear sense to me on a deep level.



The way I got introduced to anarchism in the was going to local shows with my childhood best friend. Growing up was a very insular/ isolated experience because my parents were Christian fundamentalist. As you can imagine, I was not allowed to do very much, no media existed in my house that wasn't Christian media. We didn't have cable, there was no newspaper (I'm definitely dating myself here). My childhood best friend her parents were longtime friends of my parents, so I was allowed to do things with her/stay over her house without much pushback from my parents. And she was very much into a music scene so we would go to punk shows at houses, basements warehouses, school gymnasium & that was my first exposure to anarchist imagery. The DIY scene was pretty prominent & so there would be anarchist symbolism on tapes screen printed posters flyers shirts. I've always been drawing from young age, so the DIY stuff caught my eye & I was immediately into to whatever was happening. For me anyways ,14/15-year-old kid, that doesn't really know much about the world, seeing this symbol juxtapose with crust/hard-core music & I'm thinking like "Yeah, fuck the world!" Which to a certain degree is true, I definitely consider myself having an anarcho-nihilist leanings, but I wouldn't say fuck the world, more like fuck any/all oppression!

Well I'd like to write a whole piece about it at some point, but for the most part, it was just my disposition. I've always hated when some authority would impose on me, hamper me. It's stifling and manipulative. When I learned about anarchism, it fit perfectly for who I am and the way I think and feel ethically. My experience in school (admittedly quite odd on the whole) only reinforced my antipathy toward coercion and manipulation, and seeing it hurt my friends, too, also solidified it. My distaste for authority got me into a lot of trouble, as you'd might expect, but ultimately that's what made me an anarchist: recognizing that how I felt and what I saw was just the nature of authority, and everyone – not just me – deserves to be unconstrained by it, and to be supported unconditionally by virtue of being alive.

Intellectually, it's a bit of a pathetic story. I was always in a race with my siblings to "know more" and "be smarter," so I'd spend a lot of time trying to catch up to their seemingly-unending knowledge, as a kid does. So, politically, I feel down some Wikipedia rabbit holes stemming from socialism and came across anarchism. I was skeptical, of course, but I was intrigued – much more intrigued than with Marxism, which, at the time, seemed a bit pompous and absolute. It took a year or two, but, after reading about Chomsky, conquering some bread, pleasing my Unique, and cringing at Lenin, I was convinced. Though I must stress, it took a long time and a lot of thought and internal argument. I come from an upper-middle class technocratic-liberal family with plenty of means, and I went to mostly private schools growing up. In time, however, it made sense.

The last part of it was being kicked out of home when I was fifteen due to being trans. I was already an anarchist at that point (I was fourteen when it clicked), but being homeless and seeing what other people endured, and how every form of conditional support or imposition did nothing but hamper them – how lovely people are deprived of life, exploited, turned bitter or hopeless, crushed, and how all our society, the State, capitalism, and our culture imposes misery and plight on our most destitute (not to mention everyone else, too) – how else are you meant to feel but wanting to smash it all down and start over? How can you learn about these struggles and the struggles of people the world over and not want to burn to the ground everything that stands in their way from being free, happy, and alive?

There's a lot more to it, of course, but that's the (somewhat incoherent but hopefully enlightening) overview.

This is gonna sound like the most zoomer shit ever, but I had to take the PolComp test in highschool civics and scored as libertarian as you can go and slightly to the left after answering 100% honestly. I googled more polcomp stuff and saw one labeled Anarchist at the bottomDecided to look more into Anarchism and found I agreed, Authority sux, the govt shouldn't exist, work is hell, I shouldn't have to respect a system that doesn't have respect for me and my individual needs.But what started my initial outlook (before polcomp test) was a tweet from TomSka I saw when I was like 13 that said "if you judge someone for things that don't actively harm others, you're probably an asshole" and it just clickedI started off reading the bread book, which sounded nice but felt a little too "pie in the sky" like everything would just fall into place. I eventually found my way to Stirner and Novatore which resonated with me a lot heavier.